(c) by when the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to provide for (i) enhancing Medical Bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1,000/- if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided by the employer free of charge; and (ii) Granting powers to the Central Government to revise Medical Bonus before three years subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/- has been passed by the Parliament. The Bill has also received the assent of the President on 1st April, 2008. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2008 (No. 15 of 2008) has been published in the Gazette of India on 2nd April, 2008.

Rescheduling the present rates paid to registered under NREGS

2606. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning rescheduling of the present rates paid to the workers registered NREGS at various States;

(b) whether Comptroller and Auditor general has made any suggestions or recommendations in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to revise the present norms for taking the works defined under NREGA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) In accordance with Section 6(2) of the NREG Act, 2005, until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Central Government has so far not fixed wage rate under NREGA in respect of any of the States. Wages are, therefore, paid to the NREGA workers as per the rates fixed by the concerned State Government.

(b) The draft report of Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) on the performance audit of the implementation of NREGA is selected districts submitted to the Ministry on 17.12.2007 did not make suggestion or recommendation for re-scheduling of the present rates paid to the NREGA workers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Allocation under SGRY to Andhra Pradesh

2607. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh under the Sampoorna Grammen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY);

(b) the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether this allocation is according to the average national allocation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Entire Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has been subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in 2008-09 with effect from 1.4.2008. No allocation has been made under SGRY in 2008-09.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

Non-availability of food to rural families

†2608. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Sample Survey Organization has revealed in its recent report about non-availability of food to innumerable rural families of many States and also their helplessness to remain hungry for many days in a month;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the report, the members of SC/ST families and agricultural worker's families are the most affected families due to food shortage; and

(c) if so, the names of such States as per the report and the Government's approach in view of this and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Based on the Report No. 512(61/1.0/5), "Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in India Households 2004-05", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004 — June 2005) brought out by the Naitonal Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, 2.4% of the rural households in the country were not getting enough food throughout the year during 2004-05. Major State-wise information is given in Statement-I. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Based on the above-mentioned Report it is estimated that 5.8% of agricultural labour households, 4.2% of scheduled tribe households and 4.0% of scheduled caste households in the rural areas were not getting enough food throughout the year at the national level during 2004-05. State-wise details are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Percentage of rural households not getting enough food during 2004-05 by major States

Rural India	Percentage of rural Households
Andhra Pradesh	0.6
Assam	5.3
Bihar	2.8
Chhattisgarh	2.6
Gujarat	0.3
Haryana	0.0
Jharkhand	0.7
Karnataka	0.3
Kerala	2.5

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi .